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# Moonlighting in Moscow?

## Two Marine guards are accused of allowing Soviet KGB agents to roam the U.S. Embassy at night

*They met on the Moscow subway. The young Marine, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree, 25, recognized the woman as a fellow worker at the U.S. Embassy. She was a Soviet citizen, a translator named Violetta Seina—28 years old, 5 feet 7 inches, brown hair, a good figure and a wardrobe of uplift bras. He walked her home. They met again, secretly because of rules against fraternization. They became lovers. Then Violetta introduced Lonetree to her Uncle Sasha. His real name was Aleksei Yefimov, and he was an agent of the Soviet KGB. "Uncle Sasha" wanted a lot of information.*

**A**nd that, as investigators describe it, was the start of yet another American spy scandal. Lonetree was detained last December and accused of providing the Soviets with secret information about the U.S. embassies in both Moscow and Vienna, where he served as a member of the elite Marine guard. Last week the government disclosed the detention of another Marine, Cpl. Arnold Bracy, 21, who also had a Soviet girl-

friend and was suspected of acting as Lonetree's accomplice. They were the first Marine guards ever accused of espionage. A Marine Corps charge sheet suggested that the alleged espionage could be far more serious than it originally appeared. The corps charged that Lonetree and Bracy let Soviet agents into the embassy at night on "numerous" occasions and gave them access to cryptographic equipment and secret documents. The charge sheet also claimed that Lonetree gave Bracy cash "payments" of about \$1,000.

In damage to the United States, the sex-and-money espionage case may rival or even exceed the betrayals of such recent spy teams as the Walkers or the Pollards. "It's as bad as you can imagine," says one well-informed U.S. official. Unless American officials are overstating the case, the Soviets may now have the ability to decipher secret messages sent from the embassy—and even to break U.S. codes elsewhere in the world. As a result, administration sources told NEWSWEEK, the embassy has been forced to cut off a large part of its

communications: written messages sent by radio and "secure" telephone calls. The embassy was left with only the diplomatic pouch and insecure phone lines. The communications nightmare could get worse when Secretary of State George Shultz comes to Moscow on April 13 to discuss arms control—and will need to talk in confidence with President Reagan back in Washington. U.S. officials also told NEWSWEEK that the case may involve more money than has been disclosed so far. A State Department source charged that "tens of thousands of dollars" were paid to Lonetree and Bracy by the KGB.

Lonetree was formally charged with espionage, while Bracy was still being held on suspicion of spying. One or both of the men will be tried by court-martial, where (unlike a civilian court) a conviction on espionage charges could lead to the death penalty. So far, nothing has been proven. Lonetree's lawyer, Michael Stuhff, said his client "would absolutely deny" last week's charges. The sergeant's family—his father is a Winnebago Indian and his mother a Navajo—also has denied that he engaged in espionage.

**'He's no spy':** Bracy's father, a subway engineer in New York City, described his son as "a Marine's Marine" and insisted: "He's no spy." Theodore Bracy charged that his son was a "fall guy" taking the rap for someone else. As the elder Bracy told it, his son did have a "friendly relationship" with a Soviet woman but informed the embassy of a possible security breach when she began to ask for sensitive information. Last week Bracy reportedly recanted his initial confession. According to Stuhff, Bracy now says that "neither he nor Lonetree were engaged in espionage activity."

Investigators charge that while Lone-



MARIO SURIANI—AP



AP

**'A Marine's Marine':** Corporal Bracy's mother, Frieda, at the family home in New York City with a portrait of her 21-year-old son (above)



AP

**Love and espionage?** Violetta Seina, a Soviet citizen and former translator at the U.S. Embassy, and her ex-boyfriend, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree

Continued



HIBON-SYGMA

**Riddled with Russian bugs:** *The old chancery building*

tree was involved with Violetta Seina, Bracy had a romance with another Soviet employee at the embassy, a cook named Galya. Sources told *NEWSWEEK* that Bracy was busted from sergeant to corporal for fraternizing. Lonetree's defense team complained that although fraternization was forbidden, Soviet women employees were invited to the annual Marine Ball.

**The 'lookout':** Marine investigators charge that Lonetree gave the Soviets the names, addresses and photographs of covert U.S. agents and blueprints of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The charge sheet also claims that Lonetree allowed Soviet agents to enter the embassy at night from January to March last year and gave them access to sensitive areas such as the defense attaché's office and the communications center, allowing them to examine "instruments, appliances, documents and writings" contained therein. The charge sheet said that Bracy "acted as a lookout" and silenced alarms that the Soviet agents set off.

According to Robert Lamb, assistant secretary of state for security, the embassy's security officers noticed that alarms went off quite frequently when Lonetree and

decided "to rely on the trustworthiness of the individuals."

When Lonetree was transferred to Vienna in March of last year, Uncle Sasha promptly introduced him to a local contact named George, who claimed to be a KGB general. (Seina eventually went to work for the Irish Embassy but quit the job after Lonetree's arrest.) Lonetree allegedly gave the Soviets sensitive information about the Vienna embassy, including floor plans and office assignments. His defenders say Lonetree turned himself in to a CIA officer at an embassy Christmas party last December. "He said something like, 'I'm in something over my head. I need to talk to you about it,'" says Lake Headley, an investigator for Lonetree's lawyers.

Headley says Lonetree hoped to act as a double agent in order to expose a KGB general. The sergeant apparently was allowed to meet with Soviet agents in Vienna twice after his arrest, but he didn't play the double game for long. For some reason, it took U.S. investigators four months to get around to looking up Bracy, who tipped them off to the most damaging aspects of the affair. Lonetree's lawyers claim their

client's real problems began only after Bracy confessed, implicating Lonetree in a plot to admit Soviet agents to the embassy. "He denies letting people into the embassy," Headley says of Lonetree. "He was never accused of that before Bracy."

**Free rein:** Intelligence officials maintain that the two Marines gravely damaged U.S. security. "If you offer a team of KGB guys free rein in the embassy at regular intervals," says one source, "the potential for trouble is enormous." The intelligence analysts speculate that Lonetree and Bracy may even be responsible for some of the security breaches that were previously blamed on CIA defector Edward Lee Howard. Now that the damage has been done, multiple investigations are under way. And administration sources have told *NEWSWEEK* that all 28 Marines in the embassy soon will be replaced.

The embassy's security problems won't be resolved overnight. All of its Soviet employees were withdrawn by the Kremlin during the tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions last fall. But the chancery building is thought to be riddled with Soviet listening devices. Construction work on a new embassy has been halted, partly because of shoddy Soviet workmanship and partly because of a suspicion that the new chancery is being bugged from the ground up. At a critical juncture in U.S.-Soviet relations, America's listening post in Moscow has been severely crippled, and the work of diplomacy will be hampered for months to come.

RUSSELL WATSON with RICHARD SANDZA and ROBERT B. CULLEN in Washington. JOYCE BARNATHAN in Moscow and bureau reports

**Under siege:** *A Soviet security guard at a side door to the U.S. Embassy*

PETER TURNLEY FOR NEWSWEEK